



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 252

January Session, 2019



AN ACT CONCERNING THE CONNECTICUT FOOD POLICY COUNCIL.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. Section 22-456 of the general statutes is repealed and the
2 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective July 1, 2019*):

3 (a) There is established the Connecticut Food Policy Council, which
4 shall be within the Department of Agriculture for administrative
5 purposes only.

6 (b) [The] Until June 30, 2019, the council shall consist of the
7 following members: (1) One appointed by the majority leader of the
8 Senate who shall be involved in agriculture or in an agriculture
9 organization; (2) one appointed by the president pro tempore of the
10 Senate who shall be involved in an antihunger organization; (3) one
11 appointed by the minority leader of the Senate, who shall represent the
12 Cooperative Extension Service; (4) one appointed by the minority
13 leader of the House of Representatives who shall be a food retailer; (5)
14 one appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives who
15 shall be involved in agriculture or in an agriculture organization; (6)
16 one appointed by the majority leader of the House of Representatives
17 who shall be a produce wholesaler; (7) the Commissioner of
18 Agriculture, or his designee; (8) the Commissioner of Administrative
19 Services, or his designee; (9) the Commissioner of Education, or his

20 designee; (10) the Commissioner of Transportation, or his designee;
21 (11) the Commissioner of Public Health, or his designee; (12) the
22 Commissioner of Social Services, or his designee; (13) the head of each
23 state department, as defined in section 4-5, who is not one of the
24 commissioners designated in subdivisions (7) to (12), inclusive, of this
25 subsection who shall be members ex officio without the right to vote;
26 and (14) the chairman of the joint standing committee of the General
27 Assembly having cognizance of matters relating to the environment
28 who shall be a member ex officio without the right to vote. The term of
29 all members appointed under this subsection shall terminate on June
30 30, 2019.

31 (c) On and after July 1, 2019, the council shall consist of the
32 following members: (1) The Commissioner of Agriculture, or a
33 designee; (2) the Commissioner of Education, or a designee; (3) the
34 Commissioner of Transportation, or a designee; (4) the Commissioner
35 of Public Health, or a designee; (5) the Commissioner of Social
36 Services, or a designee; (6) the Commissioner of Consumer Protection,
37 or a designee; (7) the Commissioner of Economic and Community
38 Development, or a designee; (8) the Commissioner of Energy and
39 Environmental Protection, or a designee; (9) one who is a
40 representative of The University of Connecticut Cooperative Extension
41 Service, designated by the president of The University of Connecticut;
42 (10) two appointed by the speaker of the House of Representatives,
43 both of whom represent a local or state-wide food commission, council
44 or network; (11) two appointed by the president pro tempore of the
45 Senate, both of whom represent a local or state-wide food commission,
46 council or network; (12) one appointed by the majority leader of the
47 House of Representatives, who represents a local or state-wide food
48 commission, council or network; (13) one appointed by the majority
49 leader of the Senate, who represents a local or state-wide food
50 commission, council or network; (14) one appointed by the minority
51 leader of the House of Representatives, who represents a local or state-
52 wide food commission, council or network; (15) one appointed by the
53 minority leader of the Senate, who represents a local or state-wide food

54 commission, council or network; (16) one appointed by the Governor,
55 who is an agricultural producer; and (17) one appointed by the
56 Governor, who is a representative of an anti-hunger organization.

57 (d) Members of the council appointed under subsection (c) of this
58 section shall serve for three-year terms commencing on the date of
59 appointment, which for initial appointments shall be not later than
60 September 1, 2019. Any vacancy shall be filled by the appointing
61 authority. Any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of term
62 shall be filled for the balance of the unexpired term.

63 (e) Notwithstanding the provisions of section 4-9a, the council shall
64 elect [a chairperson] two chairpersons and a vice-chairperson from
65 among its members, provided one chairperson shall be a department
66 head and one chairperson shall be a public member. Any person
67 absent from [(A)] (1) three consecutive meetings of the commission or
68 [(B)] (2) fifty per cent of such meetings during any calendar year shall
69 be deemed to have resigned from the council, effective immediately.
70 Vacancies on the council shall be filled by the appointing authority.
71 Members of the council serve without compensation but shall, within
72 the limits of available funds, be reimbursed for expenses necessarily
73 incurred in the performance of their duties. The council shall meet as
74 often as deemed necessary by the [chairperson] chairpersons or a
75 majority of the council.

76 [(c)] (f) The council shall [: (1) Develop, coordinate and implement a
77 food system policy linking local economic development,
78 environmental protection and preservation with farming and urban
79 issues; (2) review and comment on any proposed state legislation and
80 regulations that would affect the food policy system of the state; (3)]
81 examine food and nutrition-related programs, issues and policies, and
82 develop recommendations to promote a strong food economy and
83 support community access to healthy foods. The council may make
84 recommendations related to the following: (1) Increased collaboration
85 and communication among state agencies; (2) increased collaboration
86 and communication among local, state and federal agencies; (3)

87 opportunities to leverage private and public market influence, such as
 88 through institutional purchasing and contracts; (4) modifications to
 89 existing or proposed state or federal laws or regulations or policies
 90 relevant to the food system, food economy, food security and access to
 91 healthy foods in the state; (5) improvements to state or federal
 92 program implementation relevant to the food system, food economy,
 93 food security and access to healthy foods in the state; (6) identification
 94 of additional federal, state, local and private investments needed to
 95 accomplish the council's recommendations; and (7) any other topic
 96 deemed relevant by the council.

97 (g) The council (1) shall advise and provide information to the
 98 Governor on the state's food policy; [and (4)] (2) shall examine food
 99 policy at the local level and coordinate with local entities on existing
 100 and proposed local food policy; (3) may work with local and state-
 101 wide food networks and commissions on food action planning
 102 activities; and (4) shall prepare and submit to [the joint standing
 103 committee of] the General Assembly, [having cognizance of matters
 104 relating to the environment] in accordance with the provisions of
 105 section 11-4a, an annual report concerning its activities with any
 106 [appropriate] recommendations [concerning food policy] for
 107 legislation.

108 [(d)] (h) The council may use such funds as may be available from
 109 federal, state or other sources and may enter into contracts to carry out
 110 the purposes of this section.

111 [(e)] (i) The council may, subject to the provisions of chapter 67,
 112 employ any necessary staff within available appropriations.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	July 1, 2019	22-456

GAE Joint Favorable Subst.

